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REAGAN TELLS 150 JEWISH LEADERS THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT USE THREAT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL TO SPEED UP ISRAEL-LEBANON NEGOTIATIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- President Reagan and his top aides told 150 Jewish leaders from the United States and around the world today that the Administration has ruled out the threat of sanctions against Israel in its efforts to speed up negotiations in Lebanon.

"There will be no pressure on Israel," Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress said after a meeting at the White House today between Reagan and members of the WJC Governing Board, now holding its biennial meeting here; the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Republican Jewish leaders.

"The Administration is committed not to put pressure on Israel; no sanctions, no pressure, nothing like that," Bronfman said after the group heard a 50-minute speech from Reagan followed by a discussion in the White House State Room between the Jewish leaders, Robert McFarlane of the National Security Council, and Richard Fairbanks, the President's special envoy for the autonomy negotiations. The meeting was closed to the press. The White House later released a transcript of Reagan's remarks.

Julius Berman, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said sanctions were also ruled out during a 20-minute meeting held in the Oval Office just before the main meeting between Reagan and his senior advisors and Bronfman, Berman, Albert Spiegel, chairman of the National Republican Jewish Coalition, and Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania.

Cites 'Assumption' By Reagan

Berman stressed that there was a need to "speed up" the Lebanese negotiations since the President felt the lack of progress there was holding up the overall peace process. Berman said there is an "assumption" by the President, based on Administration talks with King Hussein of Jordan, that Hussein will come into the peace negotiations once there is an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

Reagan indicated that Hussein was not demanding a freeze on Israeli settlements on the West Bank as a condition for his joining the talks, but that none be built while the negotiations were going on, according to Berman.

Reagan Notes New Opportunities For Peace

In his speech, Reagan noted that the "events of the past year" in Lebanon "have created new opportunities for peace that must not be lost." The President stressed that "its vital to the United States, to Israel, and to all those who yearn for an end to the killing that we not let these current opportunities pass by."

Reagan also noted that the U.S. and Israel share the same goals in Lebanon -- a speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces, a strong central government for Lebanon and "full and effective guarantees"

that southern Lebanon will no longer be used as a staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel.

Berman noted that in the Oval Office meeting Reagan emphasized that the U.S. lacks "credibility" with the Arabs who do not believe the U.S. did not have a role in Israel's operation "Peace for Galilee." He said for this reason the Arabs do not believe the U.S. cannot get Israel to do what Washington wants.

President Defends His Peace Initiative

Reagan in his speech stressed that his September 1 peace initiative is "based on an historic U.S. commitment to Israel's security" and reaffirms "the Camp David accords which deems that peace must bring security to Israel and provide for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians." He declared that "Israel and Arab leaders must take the necessary risks for peace to take root and bloom if we are to succeed. It is riskier to do nothing, to let this time pass with no tangible sign of progress."

Reagan again called for "great courage and some risk" by both sides. "Israel must be prepared to engage in serious negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza," he said. "As I stated previously, the most significant action demonstrating Israel's good faith would be a settlements freeze. On the other hand, King Hussein should step forward ready to negotiate peace directly with Israel."

Reagan stressed that "America's commitment to Israel remains strong and enduring." He noted that "We've had disagreements as would be expected between friends, even between good friends. Our friendship continues, however, and it should be no doubt that America's commitment to Israel remains as it always has been."

Berman told reporters that he stressed to the President that the press has made these differences into confrontations and the perception has developed that Israel is blocking efforts towards peace. He said the truth is that Israel is ready to come to the negotiating table without pre-conditions, unlike the Arab "confrontation" states.

Bronfman, who spoke to reporters separately, had high praises for Reagan. He said as a "good American, I am very proud of my President. As a Jew I think the President's position is very well stated." He said Reagan has a "very deep and unbending respect and love for the Jewish people and the State of Israel. I think he is sometimes misunderstood in terms of what he is trying to accomplish. But I think that what he is trying to accomplish is peace in the Middle East."

Reagan Must Not Allow Nazism To Recur

Reagan opened his speech by noting that "this week marks the 50th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's rise to power. It's incumbent upon us all, Jews and gentiles alike, to remember the tragedy of Nazi Germany, to recall how a fascist regime conceived in hatred brought a reign of terror and atrocity on the Jewish people and on the world, and to pledge that never again will the decent people of the world permit such a thing to occur. Never again can people of conscience overlook the rise of anti-Semitism in silence."

The President said that Americans "can be proud" that a Holocaust memorial is being built in Washing-

ton and noted that the Gathering of American Holocaust survivors scheduled for Washington in April "should touch the heart of every American." But he noted that anti-Semitism is continuing and that "even in the free world" the fight is "not yet won."

Pledges To Continue Struggle For Soviet Jewry

The President also pledged to continue the struggle for Soviet Jewry. He said that at the Helsinki review conference, the U.S. is making it clear to the Soviet leadership that "We've had enough of words. There is no better way for them to begin (to improve relations with the West) than by releasing the Prisoners of Conscience in Siberia and restoring Jewish emigration to the levels of the late 1970s. And I might add they could give us an accounting of one of mankind's true heroes, Raoul Wallenberg."

NEW KINK IN ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Israeli, Lebanese and American negotiating teams will meet in Natanya tomorrow to continue to seek agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and security arrangements. The meeting was shifted from the usual site at Kiryat Shmona because of bad weather.

Natanya has been the scene of subcommittee meetings to discuss specific agenda items but no progress has been reported. A new stumbling block arose this week when the Lebanese reportedly differed with Israel over the size of the security zone to be established north of the Israeli border. Israel has been insisting on an area 28 miles deep which would keep its northern towns and settlements out of range of terrorist rockets and artillery.

Reports confirmed in the media here said the Lebanese proposed a much smaller zone at yesterday's meeting. The Lebanese are also opposed to Israel's demand that its own troops man early warning outposts in south Lebanon after the bulk of its 30,000-man force is withdrawn from that country.

Meanwhile, Col. Thomas Stokes, commander of the 1,200-man marine force in Beirut flatly denied today that Palestinian terrorists who have been harassing Israeli troops in recent weeks were operating from the zone patrolled by the marines.

"I don't know where they are coming from and I don't think the Israelis do either," Stokes told a press conference at marine headquarters at Beirut airport. "Nobody has given me any information to make me believe this is where they're coming from," he said.

Israeli officers have charged recently that the marines have been lax in allowing Palestinian terrorists to infiltrate their lines to attack Israeli military traffic on a highway that runs parallel to the marine's zone of operations. Israeli patrols sweeping the area in search of terrorist ambushes have had several confrontations with marines.

Stokes said this was not likely to reoccur since a telephone "hotline" has been set up between marine headquarters and the Israeli army command post. The "hotline" was agreed to at a meeting last week between Stokes, Gen. Amir Drori, commander of Israeli forces in Lebanon and U.S. special envoy Morris Draper.

REPORT PHALANGISTS ARE WAGING WAR OF MURDER AGAINST PALESTINIANS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Sources close to the Israeli army in Lebanon reported today that

Christian Phalangists are waging a war of murder and intimidation against Palestinians in the Sidon area. The purpose is to force them to leave or to move into the ghetto surrounding the Ein Hilwe refugee camp. An estimated 18,000 Palestinians live in the camp and at least twice that number in other parts of Sidon.

According to the sources, the bodies of seven recently murdered Palestinians were found outside the camp during the past week. Five other bodies found earlier are believed to be those of Palestinians murdered 4-5 months ago. A military spokesman here confirmed that "five or six bodies" were found recently but could not say whether the apparent murders were politically motivated.

Reports from Beirut today said 17 persons were killed and 34 wounded in a battle between Christian and Druze militias in the Shouf mountains region of Lebanon yesterday. A total of 34 have been killed since the fighting erupted anew last Saturday and the death toll since last November has been placed at more than 130.

The Israeli army commander in the Shouf district was quoted as blaming "outside elements" for the renewed warfare. He was apparently referring to the Syrians who allegedly encourage both sides to open fire on each other.

Haaretz reported today that the Israeli army in Lebanon has warned Druze and Christian leaders that it would stop guarding convoys of food and fuel unless the fighting ceased. If the threat is carried out, both sides would be faced with severe shortages within a few days, the paper's military correspondent said.

Haaretz also reported that Israeli arms and ammunition have been found in the hands of Druze fighters in the Shouf district and were confiscated.

COSTA RICA'S PRESIDENT SAYS HIS DECISION TO MOVE EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM WAS HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has told a group of American Jewish leaders here that his decision to transfer Costa Rica's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was one of "tremendous historical importance."

The President told the group of more than 100 -- who were here January 23-30 on a "mission of appreciation" for the transfer -- that the diplomatic move, taken last year, supports "the sovereign right of Israel, like all other nations, to determine its own capital."

The week-long mission grew out of an initiative taken by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and was sponsored by five U.S. Jewish organizations.

Addressing the Jewish leaders at a dinner last week, Monge said he was gratified that Costa Rican-Israeli ties are deepening and added that the two nations share an adherence to "many human values aimed at preserving world peace and improving conditions for the human race."

Expresses Admiration For Israel, Jews

Since 1948, the Costa Rican leader went on, Israel has become "a formidable example for the entire world of technical, cultural progress, economic development and spiritual greatness." He added: "I love, respect and admire the people of Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world."

Others at the dinner meeting, held at San Jose's Cariri Hotel, included Israeli Ambassador David Tourgeman, Costa Rican government officials and members of the nation's Jewish community.

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of ADL's Latin American Affairs department, and one of the leaders of the mission along with David Blumberg, former

international president of B'nai B'rith, told Monge that the group had come to Costa Rica "primarily to express our appreciation to you, your government and the people of Costa Rica for your support of the state of Israel."

He added that "friends of Israel are friends of the American Jewish community and world Jewry" and said ADL and other Jewish organizations would seek to promote better understanding and appreciation of Costa Rica in the U.S.

Myra Farr, national vice president of the National Council of Jewish Women, pledged to encourage American Jews to visit Costa Rica. Blumberg presented an inscribed silver tray to Monge on behalf of the mission members.

The organizations sponsoring the mission were: B'nai B'rith, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the United Synagogue of America, the National Council of Jewish Women, and B'nai Zion.

SOME 500 CHRISTIANS AND JEWS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL AT NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Nearly 500 Jews and Christians expressed solidarity with the State of Israel this morning at a National Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel.

The Bible says that "Those who love Israel will be blessed," Rep. Mark Siljander (R, Mich.) declared. This theme was echoed by Doug Krieger, of the American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation, and E.E. McAteer, president of the Religious Round Table, the two groups sponsoring the prayer breakfast.

The breakfast was held for the second consecutive year in conjunction with the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters at the Shoreham Hotel. Rabbi David Ben Ami, of the American Forum, noted that those present represented not only secular organizations but Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Hasidic groups. He said that such a mixture was not likely to be found even at a Jewish gathering.

Benjamin Abileah, the Israel Consul General in Washington, said the breakfast, which was held under the words from I Samuel 17:29 "is there not a cause?" was "enough to give any Israeli a boost these days."

Morton Blackwell, representing the White House, said the Reagan Administration is committed "to an Israel that is secure and free." Krieger had told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency earlier that the purpose of the breakfast was to demonstrate to the Administration that there is great support for Israel among many Americans.

Falwell Urges Public Support Of Israel

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority, took note of this in his remarks. He urged Christians to "stamp out anti-Semitism" and to publicly support Israel not only in places like New York City "but every place you go, where there is not a Jew in the audience or in the town."

Dr. Ben Armstrong, executive director of the National Religious Broadcasters, said his group has some 1,000 members whose radio and television programs reach the "grass roots" in support of Israel.

Falwell urged Christians to take the lead in support not only of the survival of Israel but also that it may prosper. "Israel is the only friend we have in the Middle East and friends should stand together," he said.

He supported both Premier Menachem Begin and Israel, noting that Begin has stood fast against almost all world leaders because he, like many Israelis, has gone through the "hell of the Holocaust" and is determined that "my children and my children's children will never go through what I had to."

Falwell said that to ask Israel to give up the West Bank is like asking the U.S. to give up all its land between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Rockies to a country that wants to destroy it. He said Israel's operation in Lebanon should have been "cheered" by all free countries since it was not an "invasion" but a "liberation of Lebanon."

Falwell stressed that he considered the Palestinians "a people in need" but does not consider the Palestine Liberation Organization as their representatives but only as "terrorists."

FRANCE TO SELL IRAQ 20 MISSILES

PARIS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- France has agreed to sell Iraq 20 Exocet missiles similar to those used effectively by Argentina against the British Navy during the Falkland Islands war, and six Super Standard combat planes to deliver them, according to the usually well informed French weekly Le Canard Enchaîné.

Diplomatic sources confirmed the report saying it fitted in with France's overall pro-Iraqi and pro-Egyptian policy. The Iraqi-Iranian war will be one of the subjects which Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will discuss with President Francois Mitterrand when they meet here tomorrow.

Mubarak, Egyptian diplomatic sources said, hopes Western Europe will "make itself clearly heard" in Washington and urge President Reagan to act rapidly to try and secure a settlement in the Middle East. The sources said Mubarak feels encouraged by his meeting with Reagan but believes that European pressure would help speed up American diplomatic action.

JEWSH CARTOONIST RECEIVES PRIZE FROM FOUNDATION OF FRENCH JUDAISM

PARIS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Foundation of French Judaism has awarded its annual prize for distinguished service to culture to Jewish cartoonist "Tim." The 100,000 Franc (\$15,000) presentation of the award will take place April 20.

Polish-born Tim studied art in France and first started drawing political cartoons in London during the Nazi occupation of France. A staff member of the French newspaper, L'Express, some of his cartoons have become world famous, mainly those dealing with anti-Jewish discrimination.

The Foundation was established two years ago to encourage works of art, literature or science which help preserve the heritage of the Jewish people and its history and to recall the Holocaust. The former recipients were historian Leon Poliakov, a specialist on the Nazi era, in 1981; and Egyptian-born novelist and poet Edmond Jabes, last year.

EL AL TO DISMISS 650 EMPLOYEES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The El Al management presented a list of 650 employees they intend to dismiss to Histadrut in order to restore the airline to economic health. The employees have 14 days to protest. But about 300 of them are prepared to leave willingly. Of 21 pilots on the list, 10 will accept early retirement. The others include 24 flight engineers, 60 flight attendants, men and women, and 200 technicians.

The airline, which resumed service on a limited scale two weeks ago after being grounded for four months, is operating under a new set of work rules that supersede all previous arrangements.

PRO-ARAB PROPAGANDA NETWORK OF OVER 30 GROUPS IN THE U.S. IS SPEARHEADING ANTI-ISRAEL CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) — A pro-Arab propaganda network of more than 30 organizations is engaged in a heavily financed campaign to change American public opinion and policy on the Middle East and curtail U.S. economic and military aid to Israel, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has disclosed.

The structures, backgrounds and activities of the organizations are detailed in a 100-page "handbook" entitled "Pro-Arab Propaganda in America: Vehicles and Voices." The ADL publication also identifies dozens of individuals — some closely linked to the Palestine Liberation Organization — as spearheading the campaign which escalated sharply since the Israeli military action in Lebanon last summer.

According to Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of the organization's International Affairs Division, "the attempt to undermine support for Israel, America's only reliable ally in the region is a threat to basic U.S. interests." He pointed out that since its founding 35 years ago, support for a strong, secure Israel has been American policy through eight U.S. Administrations.

Efforts To Secure U.S. Recognition of PLO

Foxman said that in addition to the well organized campaign to curtail U.S. support for Israel, the handbook documents a parallel effort to secure American recognition of the PLO "despite the fact that the PLO remains a terrorist group committed to the destruction of Israel."

Foxman noted that Palestinian leaders held a private, three-day conference in London in July, 1982, to plan and implement an anti-Israel propaganda campaign, described as the "Palestine battle in the United States."

He said that \$100 million was reportedly allocated for a plan approved by PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat which included making contact with persons close to, or inside, the U.S. Administration who are perceived as pro-Arab.

While the meeting was taking place, Foxman said, pro-Arab propagandists "were already engaged in an intensive effort to exploit exaggerated casualty reports and distorted coverage of the Lebanese fighting."

Major Organizations Cited

The handbook, prepared by ADL's Civil Rights Division under the supervision of Justin Finger, its director, cites five organizations as being in the forefront of the pro-Arab propaganda effort:

* The National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA). Founded in 1972 and the main political action and lobbying organization among the five, the NAAA has 20 chapters across the U.S. and claims political activists in all 50 states.

* The Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG). Founded in 1967 and for many years one of the most active pro-PLO propaganda groups on the American scene, it has strongly opposed American aid to Israel. AAUG professors and legal representatives have appeared as witnesses before Congressional committees dealing with Mideast issues.

* The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Founded in 1980 by former U.S. Senator James Abourezk and James Zogby, a leading pro-PLO activist, ADC has emerged

as one of the most visible pro-PLO propaganda groups in the U.S. ADC now claims 41 regional chapters across the country. During the Lebanon action, ADC placed 64 advertisements in U.S. newspapers calling for a cutoff in American aid to Israel.

* The Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC). Created in 1979 by the AAUG, the group has sponsored speaking tours in the U.S. for PLO supporters and critics of Israel. PHRC seeks to forge a coalition of church, "peace" and black groups in support of the PLO.

* The Palestine Congress of North America (PCNA). Founded in 1979 as an umbrella group for more than 50 North American based pro-PLO organizations, PCNA leaders have organized rallies and demonstrations and have had frequent contacts with Administration officials and members of Congress. At PCNA's second annual convention in 1980, the keynote speaker was Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department.

A Growing Challenge To The U.S.

Foxman noted that the current expansion of pro-Arab propaganda in the U.S. is the latest in a series of escalations that have marked the campaign in this country dating back to the years after Israel was established in 1948.

After generally ineffective efforts in the 1950's and early 1960's, the Arabs and their allies in the U.S. sharply increased their activity in the period following the 1967 Six Day War. Another phase began after the 1973 Yom Kippur War with its accompanying oil embargo, quintupling of oil prices, and the use of the oil weapon to influence American policy in the Middle East.

Foxman said that "the current campaign to undermine American support for Israel will present a growing challenge to U.S. interests in the Middle East."

POLL SHOWS BI-PARTISAN OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI ARMS SALES TO DICTATORSHIPS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) — A public opinion poll published by The Jerusalem Post today showed strong bi-partisan opposition to Israeli arms sales to countries governed by dictatorships.

The poll showed that 35.2 percent of the respondents were against selling arms to "racist and dictatorial regimes." The breakdown by party of persons holding that view was 36.4 percent pro-Labor and 34 percent pro-Likud. Respondents who favored arms sales only to democratic regimes amounted to 27.9 percent of whom 32 percent were pro-Labor and 26 percent pro-Likud. A total of 9.4 percent was undecided. Among them 8.4 percent were pro-Labor and 7.2 percent pro-Likud.

Asked if Israel should take into account the kind of regime it sold arms to, 27.5 percent of the respondents said Israel should sell to any country, irrespective of the kind of government it had. In that category, 32.8 percent were pro-Likud and 23.2 percent pro-Labor.

Questioned specifically about arms sales to Argentina, 53.8 percent responded positively, 29.1 percent were opposed and 17.1 percent were undecided. That sampling was not told before they answered the question that Argentina is ruled by a military dictatorship.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Kibbutz-owned Netafim Drip Irrigation company has signed an agreement with the Aqua-Nova Company in the U.S. for the sale and introduction of \$5.5 million worth of drip irrigation equipment to irrigate 10,000 acres of Arizona land planted with cotton. The Netafim company, owned by the kibbutzim of Hatzarim, Magal and Yiftah, will send some experts to Arizona to oversee the initial period of the system's use.